AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-4. (canceled).

5. (Original): A method of producing a positive electrode for a non-aqueous electrolyte primary battery, which comprises the steps of:

(I) a step of adding an aqueous solution of at least one alkaline earth metal hydroxide selected from the group consisting of an aqueous solution of magnesium hydroxide, an aqueous solution of calcium hydroxide and an aqueous solution of barium hydroxide to manganese dioxide while cooling below 15°C and then mixing them with stirring to prepare a mixed solution;

(II) a step of raising a temperature of the mixed solution to 45-55°C at a rate of 1-10°C/min to reduce a water content of the mixed solution and further to 65-85°C at a rate of 10-15°C/min to remove the water content of the mixed solution to thereby form a mixture of manganese dioxide and alkaline earth metal hydroxide;

(III) a step of raising a temperature of the mixture to 290-310°C and holding at this temperature for a given time to convert the alkaline earth metal hydroxide into an alkaline earth metal oxide to thereby prepare powder for a positive electrode dispersing the alkaline earth metal oxide between particles of manganese dioxide; and

(IV) a step of shaping the powder for a positive electrode to produce a positive electrode.

6. (Original): A method of producing a positive electrode for a non-aqueous electrolyte primary battery according to claim 5, wherein the aqueous solution of the alkaline earth metal hydroxide is an aqueous solution of calcium hydroxide.

7-11. (canceled).

12. (currently amended): A non-aqueous electrolyte primary battery comprising a positive electrode, a negative electrode and an electrolyte, ~~according to claim 8,~~

wherein the positive electrode comprises at least one alkaline earth metal oxide selected from the group consisting of magnesium oxide, calcium oxide and barium oxide dispersed between particles of manganese oxide;

the electrolyte comprises an aprotic organic solvent and a salt;

the aprotic solvent is added with a phosphazene derivative; and

the phosphazene derivative is a solid at 25°C and is represented by the following formula (V):

$$(NPR^6{}_2)_n \cdots\cdots (V)$$

(wherein R^6 is a monovalent substituent or a halogen element, and n is 3-6).

13. (canceled).

14. (currently amended): A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery comprising a positive electrode, a negative electrode and an electrolyte,

wherein the positive electrode comprises ~~characterized by dispersing~~ at least one alkaline earth metal oxide selected from the group consisting of magnesium oxide, calcium oxide and barium oxide dispersed between particles of at least one lithium-containing composite oxide selected from the group consisting of $LiCoO_2$, $LiNiO_2$ and $LiMn_2O_4$.

15. (Original): A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 14, wherein the alkaline earth metal oxide is calcium oxide.

16. (previously presented): A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 14, wherein a mass of the alkaline earth metal oxide is 0.5-4% based on a mass of the lithium-containing composite oxide.

17. (previously presented): A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 14, wherein the alkaline earth metal oxide has a particle size of 10-80 nm.

18. (Original): A method of producing a positive electrode for a non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery, which comprises the steps of:

(I) a step of adding an aqueous solution of at least one alkaline earth metal hydroxide selected from the group consisting of an aqueous solution of magnesium hydroxide, an aqueous solution of calcium hydroxide and an aqueous solution of barium hydroxide to at least one lithium-containing composite oxide selected from the group consisting of $LiCoO_2$, $LiNiO_2$ and $LiMn_2O_4$ while cooling below 15°C and then mixing them with stirring to prepare a mixed solution;

(II) a step of raising a temperature of the mixed solution to 45-55°C at a rate of 1-10°C/min to reduce a water content of the mixed solution and further to 65-85°C at a rate of 10-15°C/min to remove the water content of the mixed solution to thereby form a mixture of lithium-containing composite oxide and alkaline earth metal hydroxide;

(III) a step of raising a temperature of the mixture to 290-310°C and holding at this temperature for a given time to convert the alkaline earth metal hydroxide into an alkaline earth metal oxide to thereby prepare powder for a positive electrode dispersing the alkaline earth metal oxide between particles of the lithium-containing composite oxide; and

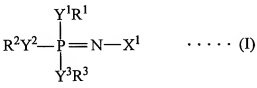
(IV) a step of shaping the powder for a positive electrode to produce a positive electrode.

19. (Original): A method of producing a positive electrode for a non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 18, wherein the aqueous solution of the alkaline earth metal hydroxide is an aqueous solution of calcium hydroxide.

20. (currently amended): A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery ~~comprising a positive electrode as claimed in~~according to claim 14, ~~a negative electrode, and an~~wherein the electrolyte ~~comprising~~ comprises an aprotic organic solvent and a support salt.

21. (Original): A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 20, wherein the aprotic organic solvent is added with a phosphazene derivative and/or an isomer of a phosphazene derivative.

22. (Original): A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 21, wherein the phosphazene derivative has a viscosity at 25°C of not more than 300 mPa·s (300 cP) and is represented by the following formula (I) or (II):



$$R^2Y^2-\underset{\displaystyle Y^3R^3}{\overset{\displaystyle Y^1R^1}{\overset{|}{\underset{|}{P}}}}=N-X^1 \qquad \cdots\cdots \text{(I)}$$

(wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 are independently a monovalent substituent or a halogen element, X^1 is a substituent containing at least one element selected from the group consisting of carbon, silicon, germanium, tin, nitrogen, phosphorus, arsenic, antimony, bismuth, oxygen, sulfur, selenium, tellurium and polonium, and Y^1, Y^2 and Y^3 are independently a bivalent connecting group, a bivalent element or a single bond), or

$$(NPR^4{}_2)_n \cdots\cdots \text{(II)}$$

(wherein R^4 is a monovalent substituent or a halogen element, and n is 3-15).

23. (Original): A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 22, wherein the phosphazene derivative of the formula (II) is represented by the following formula (III):

$$(NPF_2)_n \cdots\cdots \text{(III)}$$

(wherein n is 3-13).

24. (Original): A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 22, wherein the phosphazene derivative of the formula (II) is represented by the following formula (IV):

$(NPR^5_2)_n$ ····· (IV)

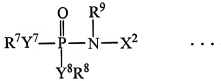
(wherein R^5 is a monovalent substituent or a halogen element, and at least one of all R^5s is a fluorine-containing monovalent substituent or fluorine, provided that all R^5s are not fluorine, and n is 3-8).

25. (Original): A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 21, wherein the phosphazene derivative is a solid at 25°C and is represented by the following formula (V):

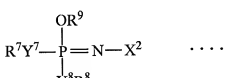
$(NPR^6_2)_n$ ····· (V)

(wherein R^6 is a monovalent substituent or a halogen element, and n is 3-6).

26. (Original): A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 21, wherein the isomer of the phosphazene derivative is represented by the following formula (VI) and is an isomer of a phosphazene derivative represented by the following formula (VII):



····· (VI)



····· (VII)

(in the formulae (VI) and (VII), R^7, R^8 and R^9 are independently a monovalent substituent or a halogen element, X^2 is a substituent containing at least one element selected from the group consisting of carbon, silicon, germanium, tin, nitrogen, phosphorus, arsenic, antimony, bismuth,

oxygen, sulfur, selenium, tellurium and polonium, and Y^7 and Y^8 are independently a bivalent connecting group, a bivalent element or a single bond).